

February 22, 2022

Dear Environment Committee Member:

In concert with many voices I testify in opposition to Raised Bill 115 "An Act Concerning Extended Producer Responsibility for Consumer Packaging." YWCA Hartford Region considers this issue through both a racial and gender justice lens. We are concerned that this bill presents economic consequence to black and brown, and lower income communities, whether intended or not. The raised bill takes aim at vulnerable consumers during an unpredictable pandemic which has displaced workers while grocery prices are on the rise.

The state of Connecticut, currently ranking in the top 5 in the country for recycling, created an infrastructure that manages recyclable materials both responsibly and efficiently. A study of a proposed EPR for PPP legislation in New York showed an increase of 4.01% to 6.35% on packaged materials. Large, national companies will not absorb this cost; it will be passed on to consumers, resulting in an additional \$36 to \$57 per month in grocery costs. This kind of increase hits lower income residents the hardest.

It is apparent that introducing an EPR for PPP system into an already *best-in-country* recycling system will *not* create a better recycling system. Alternative actions could include:

- Strengthen ties between municipalities and private industry to continue to improve collection.
- Assist Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) who have invested in systems to process and market this material.

We implore the General Assembly to reject Raised Bill 115, "An Act Concerning Extended Producer Responsibility for Consumer Packaging."

Sincerely,



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